

Barbie Nanoatelier: Open Source DNA-nanotechnology



Irina Petrova, Mona Klein, Yutthaphong Phongbunchoo,
Olga Soboleva, Andrew Kuznetsov

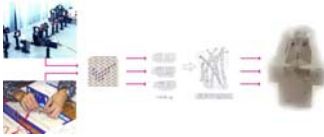
Albert-Ludwig-University Freiburg
Freiburg im Breisgau D79110, Germany
http://parts.mit.edu/wiki/index.php/Freiburg_University_2006
E-mail: andrei.kouznetsov@imtek.uni-freiburg.de



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Abstract

We use the DNA origami technique developed recently by Paul Rothemund [1]. The idea is to design a strand of DNA such that it wraps into some meaningful shape. First, the DNA should fold into a two-dimensional rectangular sheet—universal DNA-platform [2]. Secondly, this sheet should wrap itself up into the shape of a short pipe. Next, these little pipes should hook themselves up to each other such that they form one single long pipe. Once the process of DNA folding into 3D structures is understood, shapes can be chosen arbitrarily. We hope it will be possible to maintain molecular sensors, logics, and actuators onto the surface of 3D DNA-objects to reach a swarm behavior of the DNA-origami agents [3].



Introduction

Our DNA-folding project isn't a typical Synthetic Biology project, because we play a 'dead DNA' but not an 'alive DNA' coding proteins. We try to merge the DNA-origami static structures and the dynamic DNA-BioBricks constructs to reach real living machines. Because we're using DNA-synthesis very active, it could be called a Synthetic Biology or DNA-nanotechnology. The eventual outcome of the project is an Artificial Life and Origami Man. What is important, we try to pump some aesthetic principles and rules (symmetry, periodic patterns, recursion, and plasticity) into our future creatures. Crazy? Not at all! The basic idea is to design a DNA such that it folds into DNA-sheet, which we called the **addressable platform with 6 nm scale resolution** [2]. It will be possible to mount some molecules on this DNA-sheet in a desirable way like on the blocked paper. Those molecules could play a role of sensors, logics, and actuators for this nano-platform. We'd attach a specific pattern of catalytic molecules to design synthetic pathways in space, or even to reach an assembly of molecules in the sense of Eric Drexler's assembler. Or we'd organize appropriate molecules, nanoparticles, or quantum dots (qubits) to build a new computer chip. We have a lot of fantasy...

"sea of parts"

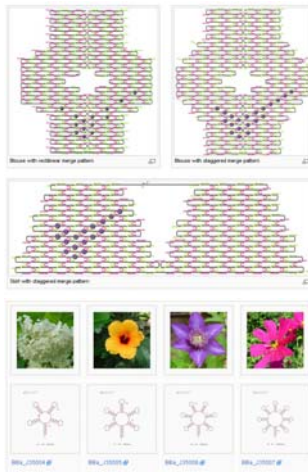
We started our *Artificial Life Project* with a semi-rational approach [4]. Now, we tune into the rational way. We founded *Barbie Nanoatelier* to prove main assembling principles and to design complex DNA-forms. We organized the external BioBricks depository for DNA-nanotechnology. Have a look:

Dead DNA (structural DNA)	BBa_J35000 - BBa_J35399
Structures	BBa_J35000 - BBa_J35099
DNA origami	BBa_J35000 - BBa_J35099
protein binding parts	BBa_J35030 - BBa_J35059
aptamers	BBa_J35060 - BBa_J35089
others	BBa_J35090 - BBa_J35099
Devices	BBa_J35100 - BBa_J35199
newsensors	BBa_J35100 - BBa_J35119
nanomechanical switches	BBa_J35120 - BBa_J35139
nanocactuators	BBa_J35140 - BBa_J35159
walking nanomachines	BBa_J35160 - BBa_J35179
others	BBa_J35180 - BBa_J35199
Systems	BBa_J35200 - BBa_J35299
Others	BBa_J35300 - BBa_J35399
Living DNA (protein-coding DNA)	BBa_J35400 - BBa_J35499
Parts	BBa_J35400 - BBa_J35499
Devices	BBa_J35500 - BBa_J35599
Systems	BBa_J35600 - BBa_J35699
Others	BBa_J35700 - BBa_J35799
Other DNA	BBa_J35800 - BBa_J35999

We just put first examples of *LEGO set of DNA building blocks for Artificial (Synthetic) Life*. These things allowed us to run in different directions. Irina pumps aesthetic principles into DNA-creatures. Mona builds DNA-chip. Andrew used DNA-origami to code images and to design a DNA-nanobot.

Surrealistic Science

The DNA-dresses for an imaginary nano-Barbie doll is the most funny and nice job! We like it, because it needs a huge of imagination and really very difficult. Do you know? Nobody can build a bra! - von Neumann's self-reproducing ... Bra.



Design Rules

We dramatically simplified Rothemund's scaffold origami method. Now students need only a browser with access to standard bioinformatics tools and a text processor, if they didn't make too complex design [5]:

Abstraction

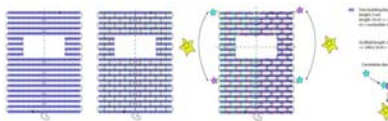
1. Take a block of paper; 1.5 block on paper = 1 building block of 16 nucleotides = 1.5 tern DNA = 5.4 nm horizontal and 4 nm vertical.
2. Find a "snake" path through the manhattan geometry horizontally with turns in the vertical direction, try to exploit symmetry.
3. Starting at one end of the DNA strand, insert a crossover to the strand section above every alternate building block. Add helper strands to bind the scaffold together. As first designed, most staples bind two helices and are 16-mers.
4. Merge helper strands to enhance the scaffold. As second designed, most staples bind three helices and are 32-mers.
5. Fill up the scaffold with letters A, T, G, C, define corresponding staple sequences by complementary mapping from scaffold to valid sequence (A, T and G, C).
6. We now have 1 long scaffold + many shorter staples.

Implementation

1. Send your request to a DNA synthesizing company such as *febit* in Heidelberg. You will have 2 bottles: 1 with the scaffold DNA, the other full of staples (1xTAE (pH 7-8.4) buffer with 10 mM MgAc.
2. Get the following equipment: pipettes, gradient thermocycler, AFM, mica.
3. Mix the scaffold and staple DNAs in 1/10 (M/M) proportion (2 x 50 µl),
4. Warm to 92°C and program the cooling down to room temp 20°C, over 16 hours
5. Cleave the mica and place 5 µl droplet on the mica. Image with AFM, let say Heureka!

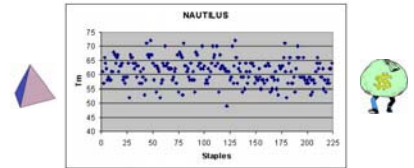
Methods of analysis

- DNA folding (electrophoresis in the polyacrylamide gel)
- 2D structures
 - transmission electron microscopy
 - atom force microscopy
- 3D structures
 - nanoparticle trap
 - quenching of fluorescence
 - fluorescence correlation spectroscopy/microscopy



Nanobot NAUTILUS

The tetrahedron about 50 nm scale was designed as a derivate of the short pipe to be a *main building block for quaternary structures* (like protein complexes). We hope to use this building primitive to create smart materials and even a *nanoswarm*.



Conclusions

1. We designed a lot of creatures from DNA. You see!
2. We realized the *DNA-synthesis is a bottle-neck* of DNA-nanotechnology.
3. We weren't able to create *"self-replicated" staples* and Artificial Life was not created this time. We'll try it again.
4. We'll firstly design the Artificial Life not in a tube, especially in the *DATABASE*. We'll only manipulate DNA by mouse, next by modeling, and then we'll bring it in labs...

Future projections

Unconventional computing, cryptography, nanoelectronics, nanoptics, nanosensors, drug delivery systems, and smart nanomaterials all are the potential applications for near future.

Barbie presents NAUTILUS™



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2. Kuznetsov A. DNA plug-and-play platform // *Complex Materials: Cooperative Projects of the Natural, Engineering and Biosciences, Summer School at the International University Bremen, Germany, 24th June - 1st July 2006*.
3. Kuznetsov A., Korvink J. From DNA-structures to a NanoSwarm // *DECOI2006: Design of Collective Intelligence, International Summer School on Collective Intelligence and Evolution, Amsterdam, Holland, 7-11 August 2006*.
4. Kuznetsov A., Schmitz M., Mueller K. On Bio-Design of Argo-Machine // *GWAL-7: 7th German Workshop on Artificial Life, Jena, Germany, 26-28 July 2006*. P. 125-133.
5. Olga Soboleva, Daniel Hautzinger, Marc Wilnauer, Andrew Kuznetsov, Svetlana Santer, Kristian Mueller, Albrecht Sippel, and Jan Korvink T-shirt from DNA // *ibid* [2]

Acknowledgements

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